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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,410	10/29/2001	Masao Hashimoto	RCOH-1040	7210
7590	10/23/2003			EXAMINER HAVAN, THU THAO
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2672	
DATE MAILED: 10/23/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/055,410	HASHIMOTO, MASAO	
	Examiner Thu-Thao Havan	Art Unit 2672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The formal drawings are approved by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Herregods et al. (US patent no. 6,064,397).

Re claim 1, Herregods teaches a method of image processing comprising the steps of selecting pages of image to identify selected pages (col. 1, lines 15-65), combining the selected pages of the image into a single overlapping image (col. 4, lines 34-50), displaying the single overlapping image (col. 3, lines 28-65; col. 2, lines 4-26), and selecting a portion of the single overlapping image to specify a selected portion (col. 14, lines 44-56), simultaneously image processing the selected portion of each of the pages of the image to generate image processed pages of the image (col. 14, line 44 to col. 15, line 33), and outputting separately each of the image processed pages of the image (col. 2, lines 50-65). In other words, Herregods teaches each bitmap portion consists of a rectangular area with horizontal and vertical sides, which fully overlaps one

or more page specific image regions. A page specific image region can be a rectangle rotated over e.g. 30 degrees. In that case, the bitmap portion is preferentially the smallest horizontally oriented rectangle, enclosing the rotated rectangle. The page specific image region may also be delineated by a polygon or any other closed path. The bitmap portion is also in that case preferentially the smallest enveloping horizontal rectangle. A specific image region can contain personal identification data such as a person's name, address, etc., a digital representation of a person's photograph, a numeric representation or a barcode for a person's registration number, etc. The specific image region can also describe a specific item, such as a specific house in a real estate database, or specific object in a collection. The page specific image region can lie completely within the background image region, partly overlap it or be completely disjunctive from it. It is also possible that more than one page specific image region is present on each sheet. It is possible for example that a person's name appears on two different locations of the sheet, or that his name appears at one page specific image region and his picture appears on another page specific image region. If more than one page specific image region is present, it is possible that these regions partly or entirely overlap. In addition, he teaches if more than one page specific image region is present in a background image region, it is possible that two or more of these image regions have overlapping portions. In that case, it is important to decide which page specific image region must be visible over the other for the common portion. This overlap sequence must be transmitted to the variable data merger. That sequence will impose the order in which each current page of the plurality of VDFx.PS files will be included in

the data stream. A VDFx.PS file, describing a page specific image region which is covered by a page specific region described by a VDFy.PS, will appear in the output data stream for each page before the VDFY.PS file data.

Re claims **2, 12, and 22**, Herregods discloses image processing is to remove the selected portion (col. 5, lines 10-34). In other words, Herregods teaches a specific feature of the current invention is that one or more portions of said bitmap representation are extracted from the bitmap memory means, once the bitmap representation for the background image region has been generated. Each portion preferentially corresponds to one page specific image region. The portion that is extracted preferentially coincides with the page specific image region or, as described above, is an enveloping rectangle comprising said page specific image region.

Re claims **3, 13, and 23**, Herregods discloses image processing is to insert data into the selected portion (col. 8, lines 39 to col. 9, line 6). Herregods teaches the image data is inserted just after the commands, which will consume these data such that they are directed to the correct positions within the bitmap.

Re claims **4, 14, and 24**, Herregods discloses data includes a combination of an image and text (col. 3, lines 40-65).

Re claims **5, 15, and 25**, Herregods discloses image processing is to move the selected portion within the single overlapping image (col. 4, lines 51-67; col. 14, lines 44-56; col. 3, lines 28-65; col. 2, lines 4-26).

Re claims **6, 16, and 26**, Herregods discloses the selected portion is an entire portion of the single overlapping image, image processing comprising selecting a paper

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size to fit the entire portion of the single overlapping image, outputting step printing each of the image processed pages onto a sheet of the selected paper size (col., lines).

Re claims **7, 17, and 27**, Herregods discloses outputting step is to print out each of the image processed pages of the image (col. 6, lines 10-16). Herregods teaches printing the sheet and restoring the bitmap portion are repeated over and over until all pages are printed. The restoration of the bitmap before the first sheet print or after the last sheet print is optional, and can be effectuated or not, based on organisational considerations.

Re claims **8, 18, and 28**, Herregods discloses displaying a rectangle to indicate the selected portion, dragging a first portion of the rectangle to change a size of the rectangle, and dragging a second portion of the rectangle to move a position of the rectangle (col. 8, line 39 to col. 9, line 65). Herregods teaches a page specific image region can be a rectangle rotated over e.g. 30 degrees. In that case, the bitmap portion is preferentially the smallest horizontally oriented rectangle, enclosing the rotated rectangle. The page specific image region may also be delineated by a polygon or any other closed path. The bitmap portion is also in that case preferentially the smallest enveloping horizontal rectangle.

Re claims **9-10, 19-20, and 29**, Herregods discloses an inside/outside area of the rectangle is image processed in image processing step (col. 11, lines 29 to col. 13).

Re claims **11 and 21**, the limitation of claims 11 and 21 are identical to claim 1 above. Therefore, claims 11 and 21 are treated with respect to grounds as set forth for claim 1 above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cullen et al., US patent no. 5,732,230

Crowley, US patent no. 5,348,277

Ho, US patent no. 6,407,757

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu-Thao Havan whose telephone number is (703) 308-7062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

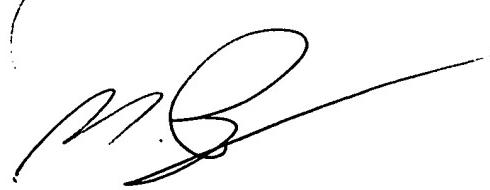
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Thu-Thao Havan

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October 16, 2003



MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600